

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### 2013 County Health Rankings report underscores community partnerships

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Department of Health in Indian River County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and expresses appreciation to the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the fourth annual County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool released today. This study uses traditional, established data, much of which was obtained from the Department and is available to the people of Florida at [www.floridacharts.com](http://www.floridacharts.com).

These rankings serve as a snapshot of the health of individuals across counties in each state. The report highlights that health is a combined work in progress across a variety of community partners. The Florida Department of Health (DOH), through its county health departments, works together to improve the health of all Floridians. The data used in these rankings are available in each state and include information related to physical environment, social and economic factors, health behaviors, education, crime rate/law enforcement and clinical care.

“The Florida Department of Health works every day to bring together community partners around shared goals to improve health,” said Dr. John Armstrong, Surgeon General and Secretary of Health. “As we track our progress, we are reminded there is no finish line in our efforts for better health.”

In Indian River County, there are areas of progress and continuing opportunity. For example, the rate of diabetic screening has increased over the past three years from 81% to 86% due in part to the expanding outreach of the Department’s program with addressing chronic disease and diabetes in cooperation with community partners. Challenges remain for the larger community as the number of residents reporting being in poor or fair health has been trending upward in recent years.

The Department has partnered with many stakeholders to finalize the Community Health Improvement Plan which has a focused effort to address the following health priorities: Access to Care, Prevention of STDs/HIV and Teen Pregnancy, Built and Natural Environment and Transportation, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Tobacco Prevention.

“Health is everyone’s responsibility,” said Miranda Hawker, Indian River County Health Department administrator. “The County Health Rankings, along with our other health assessment tools, help to identify health priorities for action. We understand that it takes a community to work on health problems, including partnerships across counties with a variety of community partners.”

The *Rankings* include a snapshot of each county in Florida with a color-coded map comparing each county’s overall health ranking. There are also new county-level trend graphs detailing change over time for several of the measurements including children living in poverty, unemployment, and quality of care.



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